ENGLAND'S WARNING-PIECE; OR A Call to Repentance.

Being an Account of a Viſion ſeen in the Pariſh Church of WALSON in the COUNTY OF NORFOLK.

K. King Miniſtry of the Parish Council of Walson

England's Warning-Piece,

OR, A

CALL to REPENTANCE.

ON the twenty-fourth day of December, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-ſix, the bells being heard to ring after a moſt ſweet and harmonious manner then ever had been heard before, which put the Inhabitants into a great ſurpriſe; upon which John Clouſton, the Clerk and Sexton, knowing that they had the keys in their poſſeſſion, went to the Church to ſee what was the matter.

One of them ſaid to the other, let us go to Mr. King, (he being the miniſter that was to preach that day) and all of them coming in a great ſurpriſe, and ſtanding to hear the bells ring ſo ſweetly, Mr. King ſaid 'In the name of the Lord, let us open the Door,' Then he exhorted them all to pray; which done ſaid Mr. King, our heavenly father we are coming at thy call; So praying, the clerk in the name of the Lord

opened the door. They went to prayers in that manner in the church together; after which they went up into the belfry, and finding the bells ſtill to keep ringing as before Mr. King looking round, eſpied a child as he thought about ſeven years of age, cloathed in white, and on his head a crown of gold cauſing the bells to ring melodiouſly with the breath of his mouth. which put them all in a great ſurpriſe, Then ſaid Mr. King, 'In the name of the Lord, who art thou?' He anſwered and ſaid, I am the meſſenger of the Lord, and am come to exhort all men to repentance. Then ſaid Mr. King, 'On what account art thou come to bring us this meſſuage?' He anſwered and ſaid, I am ſent from the Lord to deſire you to keep conſtant at your prayers both night and morning, and to give God thanks, and to pray daily, warning you all to prepare againſt the dreadful day of judgment, when the whole World will be deſtroyed by fire.

The ſaid meſſenger proceded in his exhortations for repentance, as the day was near at hand: Then ſaid the reverend divin "How doſt thou know theſe things?'

anſwered and ſaid, my heavenly maſter doth not declare them to his ſervants, but hath ſent me among you to warn you to repentance of your Sins, before he ſtretcheth his hand too heavy upon you. And I have a farther miracle to ſhow you yet. So clapping his hand upon his crown, there approached a Man cloathed in white, whoſe hair was of exceeding brightneſs, and ſhined more glorious than the Stars of the ſky, and after him eleven Angels cloathed in white, and every one a crown of Gold upon their heads, ſinging hallelujahs unto their heavenly King.

They ſaid unto this child, 'Go ſhew theſe people a farther miracle, that they may be ſure we are the meſſengers of the moſt high.

Then taking them into the chancel, he ſaid unto the men, pull up that ſtone. At which they all tried but were not able to move it, the reverend divine ſaid, 'Lord be mercifull unto us.' But the child replied, ſtand you by, you are afraid of the handy work of the Lord, if ye be ſo weak in the

h when a meſſenger of the Lord be with

how can ye be ſtrong enough to enter

nto the kingdom of Heaven. Then he laid is hand upon the ſtone, turning it over to he great ſurpriſe of all the ſpectators preſent.

From under the ſtone he pulled out a roll which was wrote in Letters of Gold, ſaying, England, England, turn from thy wickedneſs and repent with ſpeed.

Then they all vaniſhed away with ſecret melody of muſick, to the great amazement of all beholders:

The truth of which we undernamed do certify to be matter of fact. Given under our hands the 30th of December, 1766.

Mr. King, } Miniſters.
Mr. Horne, }
William Chambers, Church-Warden.
John Coulſton, Clerk.
John Boon, Sexton.

A SERMON

Preached on the Sunday following on the Occaſion. 1. Cor. 15. xxxiv. "Awake to Righteouſneſs and ſin not."

ST. Paul in each of his epiſtles, we find is full of good advice, he commands the practice of virtue as the chief promoter of all

true happineſs, and future bliſs. Theſe things, ſaid he to Philemon, ſpeak and exhort, and rebuke all with authority.

Yet alaſs! to our ſhame be it ſpoken, how many are they that preſerve and glory in their wickedneſs, taking no thought for their future welfare, but running on the very brink of deep deſtruction.

For the better enlarging of the text, I ſhall divide it into two different heads, viz. 1ſt, What is ment by awaking to righteouſneſs and then to conclude with ſome good advice.

Firſt, what is meant by awaking to righteouſneſs; awaking to righteouſneſs to have a thorough inſight into the folly of ſin, and by the diſlike thereof to turn from ſuch a way into the pleaſing path of virtue. After [illegible]n hath run through this life in a ſcene [illegible]ckedneſs and debauchery, after he hath been engaged in very henious vice, what profit can be expected but eternal puniſhment and miſery. I come now to the ſecond head, to ſhow the nature and bad effects of ſin.

Sin is of ſuch a nature that the very ſight is an abomination to the Lord, Sin it is that deſtroys the human body as well as the ever

exiſting ſoul, ſin it is that darkens our underſtanding, and overthrows all the power of goodneſs with many other ſuch dangerous conſequences, that really it is a matter of ſurpriſe, that man ſhould ſuffer ſuch an enemy to inhabit his breaſt, and more particularly when they are forwarned of the fata and deſtructive effects which it will certainl produce whatever it hath the command o power.

Let us then to the beſt of our abilitie ſtrive to improve every talent that is given to us, let us do away from us the very enemy of our ſouls, the Devil from whoſe bowels iſſue forth ſin. Awake O ye men, behold with the eye of faith, the bleſſed redeemer of all mankind; keep a guard over every word and action and love thy neighbour as thyſelf, in a word, finally brethren whatſoever things are true, whatſoever things are pure, whatſoever things are juſt, whatſoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praiſe think on theſe things.

An Hymn

A

HYMN of PRAISE.

SOVEREIGN of the Universe!
And mighty King! whose love and powe
Is known to all? thro' every age
Thy benevolence filleth the world
With every necessary enjoyment;
Thy bounteous hand dealeth to all
Mercies unspeakable!——Every
One of thy creatures taste thy love!
And under thy protection each
One exist, move, and act!
Omnipotent! All-powerfull God!
How great thy works in Nature!
The Planets their distant orbs
Continue as at first!——and time
With equal lustre!——The seasons roll
Round, and their products distribute
Blessings for man!——And no return,
Ingratitude away!——Let me
Endeavour to please my Sov'reign,
To act as he hath command;
And seek his Grace.——

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